

# Description

Vegas Valley, Lincoln Co., Nev.

March 7 to 16, 1891.

Vernon Bailey,

March 4 Mr. Nelson, Coville, & I left Ash Meadows for Vegas Valley; passed over a low divide into Pahrump Valley, thence down the valley to the south end and, turning east, crossed the divide between Charleston Mts. and Mt. Scott, thence down a long slope into Vegas Valley and camped at Vegas Ranch. From the ranch Coville and Nelson made a 3 days trip down the Vegas wash to the Colorado River, striking the river some 40 miles above Eldorado. March 14 we started on our return trip, followed up the Vegas Valley to Corn Creek, thence to Towers ranch, turned west and crossed a low divide north of the Charleston Mts. and came down into ash Meadows again (the 16<sup>th</sup>)

Distances traveled:- Ash Meadows to Winters Ranch in Pahrump Valley, 24 miles; Winters Ranch to Mt. Spring on, divide between Pahrump & Vegas Valleys, 29 miles; Mt. Spring to Vegas Ranch 28  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles; Vegas Ranch to Colorado River, about 25 miles; Vegas Ranch back to Corn Creek, 23  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi.;

Corn Creek to Towners, 20 miles; Towners to Ash Meadow  
49 miles.

Altitudes: - Bottom of Pahrump Valley at Winters Ranch, 2770 feet (from R.R. survey); Divide between Pahrump Valley & Vegas Valley, 5700 (by aneroid); Vegas Ranch is 1800 feet (from R.R. survey); Towners 2750 (R.R. survey) divide between Towners and Ash Meadows, 3250 (by aneroid).

Places at which mammals were collected: - Pahrump Valley; Mountain Spring, on divide between Pahrump & Vegas; Cottonwoods, a small stream 13 miles N.E. of Mt. Spr. & lower down; Vegas Ranch; Colorado River; Corn Creek, 23 miles north of Vegas Ranch.

The Vegas (or La Vegas) is a large valley that drains directly into the Colorado River by the Vegas Wash. It lies along the east side of the Charleston Mts. and low, bare mountains extend along its east side of valley. The sloping sides of the valley are stony & rather bare, are covered scatteringly with Larrea, Atriplex, Coleogyne, Franseria and Yucca baccata & several cacti. A strip along the bottom of the valley 3 or 4 miles wide is flat and the fine, firm soil is covered with a better growth of vegetation.

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Several species of *Atriplex*, *Lycium*, *Suaeda*, *Aceasia*,  
*Prosopis pubescens*, & *juncifolia* grow rankly over the flat.  
A number of large springs flow out along the west  
side of the flat part and joining form a good creek  
that flows 6 or 7 miles down the valley. There are some  
good natural meadows along the creek and a large ranch  
(the Vegas Ranch) is watered by it. Cottonwoods grow along  
the stream and some willows. Large orchards & vineyards  
are situated on the ranch. Peaches, trees, almonds, & apricots  
are in blossom. Alfalfa fields are green, & they are plowing.  
It is warm & summer like at the ranch.

We got several species of frog from the creek & a fish.  
The stream does not ordinarily flow within 20 miles of the Colorado  
River, but on rare occasions after heavy showers it flows to  
the river. There is one other small ranch in the valley.

Smithsonian Institution Archives  
Record Unit 7176  
United States Fish & Wildlife Service, 1860-1961  
Field Reports

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